

July 11, 2007

# County enters round two of convention

## Meeting will reconvene Friday

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NEWPORT — The Sullivan County Convention will reconvene this Friday, July 13, at 10 a.m. and make another attempt at approving a budget for the county.

By the time the meeting resumes, the fiscal year will be two weeks old. A budget was scheduled to be in place during the first convention meeting June 30, but members of the Executive Finance Committee were not ready to present a budget.

While members of the EFC said they are not sure what the budget total will be, they hope it will be lower than the \$27.6 million budget recommended by the County Commissioners last month.

Rep. Bev Rodeschin, R-Newport, recommended the convention accept the commissioners budget rather than waiting on the EFC, but EFC Chairman Brenda Ferland stated it would

not be fair to adopt the commissioners budget without letting the EFC have another chance at finalizing a budget of their own.

The commissioners' budget was eventually rejected by a vote of 4-9.

A "temporary resolution" was eventually passed last month that will allow the county to borrow up to \$2 million, which Ferland said should be enough to cover a month's worth of operating expenses while the EFC attempts to finalize its version of the budget.

The EFC met several times last week as they prepare their figures, and hope to have a budget finalized as early as this morning. They will meet again this week before convening at 8:30 a.m. on July 13, an hour and a half prior to the continuation of the full delegation.

The commissioner's budget, which was included as part of a 130-plus page report made available to everyone prior to the June 30 meeting, proposes the county spend \$27,629,657 in the coming year. The figure is a 6.27 percent increase, or more than \$1.5 million, over the nearly \$26 million figure from last year's budget.